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Brian R Naranjo 12/10/2001 04:17:07 PM From DB/Inbox: Brian R Naranjo

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

December 10, 2001

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE  
Action: INR  
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 3618 - IMMEDIATE)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KPAO, VE  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA COVERAGE AND SPINS ON NATIONAL WORK STOPPAGE  
Ref: None

1. GOVERNMENT-OWNED VTV (VENEZOLANA TELEVISION) MADE NO ATTEMPT AT BALANCED REPORTING, CONCENTRATING ON FULL TELECASTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES WITH A FEW SHOTS OF STORES OPEN ON MARGARITA ISLAND (A PRIME TOURIST DESTINATION) AND A FEW NARROW STREETS IN CARACAS. ADDITIONALLY, VTV GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRO-CHAVISTA DEMONSTRATORS. ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STRIKE FROM THE BEGINNING, VTV COMMENTATORS AT EIGHT O'CLOCK A.M., WHEN IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE NEARLY EMPTY HIGHWAYS THAT FEW WERE GOING TO WORK, SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A JUDGEMENT. INTERSPERSED THROUGH THE DAY WERE ITEMS OF REGULAR PROGRAMMING, LEAVING THE VIEWER THE IMPRESSION THAT TODAY WAS A NORMAL DAY WITH NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

2. IN CONTRAST, ALL PRIVATELY-OWNED MEDIA SHOWED EMPTY STREETS, NOT ONLY IN CARACAS BUT ALL OVER VENEZUELA. GLOBOVISION PERHAPS CAME THE CLOSEST TO TRULY BALANCED REPORTING, WITH COVERAGE NOT ONLY OF STREETS WHERE EVEN THE SIDEWALK VENDORS DIDN'T SHOW UP, BUT ALSO OF THE PRO-CHAVISTA BUS CARAVANS AND ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS WITH PRO-CHAVISTA DEMONSTRATORS. GLOBOVISION DID NOT RUN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES IN ENTIRETY, BUT SHOWED EXCERPTS. TO COUNTER THE PRESIDENT'S CLAIMS THAT ONLY THE WEALTHY WERE PARTICIPATING IN "CACEROLAZOS" (BANGING OF POTS AND PANS FROM APARTMENT WINDOWS, AN INCREASINGLY FREQUENT MANNER OF EXPRESSING DISSENT) AND THEN ONLY THROUGH PLAYING CD'S OF PRERECORDED NOISE, GLOBOVISION TOOK PAINS TO SHOW PEOPLE FROM MIDDLE-CLASS AND LOWER MIDDLE-CLASS NEIGHBORHOODS EXPRESSING THEMSELVES. THE COMMENTATOR SAID, "AND THESE ARE NO RECORDINGS."

COOK

Additional Addressees:  
None

CC:

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USINT HAVANA

Distribution:

TEOS821

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 APR 2006 200304421

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ACTION INR-00

|      |         |         |        |         |         |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | NP-00   | ACQ-00 | DODE-00 | WHA-00  | DS-00   | UTED-00 |
|      | VC-00   | TEDE-00 | LAB-01 | VCE-00  | AC-01   | NSAE-00 | ACE-00  |
|      | IRM-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00  | TEST-00 | USIE-00 | DSCC-00 | DRL-02  |
|      | NFAT-00 | SAS-00  | /004W  |         |         |         |         |

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4237  
INFO CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS CARACAS 003618

INR FOR COZART

NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KPAC, VE

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE AND SPINS ON NATIONAL WORK  
STOPPAGE

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End Cable Text

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